



## Proposed Changes to Commercial Bait Fish Seining Waters--2015

The list of approved seining waters is provided to all applicants. Proposed deletions to the list are indicated by a strikethrough, while proposed additions are indicated by italicized text. Following the list is a section providing the rationale for each of these deletions/additions.

### LIST OF APPROVED SEINING WATERS

Nongame bait fish (except carp, goldfish and rainbow smelt) may be taken from the following waters:

#### **Western Fishing District**

Ashley Creek  
*Burnt Lake, Flathead County*  
*Fish Lake, Lincoln County*  
Flathead Lake (north half only)  
Flathead River (mouth to Highway 2 Bridge) plus adjacent sloughs  
*Herrig Creek (Little Bitterroot tributary), from May 15 to June 15 between Little Bitterroot Lake and the first road crossing (Pleasant Valley Road).*  
Flathead River (Flathead Reservation boundary to confluence with Clark Fork River)  
Clark Fork River (mouth of Flathead River to Thompson Falls Dam)  
Noxon Rapids Reservoir  
Upper, Lower and Middle Thompson lakes

#### **Central Fishing District**

Bighorn Lake and Afterbay Reservoir  
Bighorn River -- Afterbay Dam to cable 600 feet downstream and below Bighorn Access Area  
Clarks Fork Yellowstone River -- Downstream from bridge at Bridger  
Kammerzell Reservoir  
Marias River & tributaries downstream from Interstate 15  
Missouri River downstream from Morony Dam  
Muddy Creek Drainage near Vaughn, including all streams and drainage canals  
Streams and ditches in the Yellowstone River Drainage downstream of the mouth of the Clarks Fork  
Teton River & tributaries downstream from Interstate 15  
Tiber Reservoir (Lake Elwell) & tributaries downstream from Interstate 15

#### **Eastern Fishing District** (continued on next page)

**Streams** -- Nongame bait fish may be taken from all streams in the Eastern District **except** the following:

Milk River and tributaries above Fresno Dam  
Beaver Creek upstream from Beaver Creek Reservoir  
Big Dry Creek and Little Dry Creek north of Highway #200 in Garfield County  
Hanging Woman Creek downstream from the Birney Road to its confluence with the Tongue River  
Otter Creek downstream from Highway #212 to its confluence with the Tongue River  
Lone Tree Creek and Fox Creek, tributaries to the Yellowstone River in Richland County  
Missouri River downstream from the mouth of the Milk River

**Eastern Fishing District** (continued)

All irrigation canals and ditches in the Eastern Fishing District are open year around for taking nongame bait fish.

Nongame bait fish may be taken from the following reservoirs in the Eastern Fishing District:

<b><u>WATER</u></b>	<b><u>COUNTY</u></b>
Anita Reservoir	Yellowstone
Bainville Railroad Ponds	Roosevelt
Baker Lake	Fallon
Beaver Creek Reservoir	Hill
BLM Reservoirs	Blaine, Phillips
BLM Reservoirs in Willow Creek Drainage	Valley
Box Elder Reservoir	Sheridan
Buxbaum West Reservoir	Richland
Cole Ponds	Phillips
Dry Fork Reservoir	Blaine
Engstrom Reservoir	Sheridan
<del>Flat Lake</del>	<del>McCone</del>
Frenchman Reservoir	Phillips
Gartside Reservoir	Richland
Grub Reservoir	Valley
Gut Shot Reservoir	Valley
Hedstrom Reservoir	McCone
Killenbeck Reservoir	Daniels
Kuester Reservoir	Richland
Lindsay Reservoir	Dawson
Medicine Lake Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge	Sheridan
Milk River and its impoundments downstream of Fresno Dam	
Nelson Reservoir	Phillips
Petrolia Reservoir	Petroleum
Raymond Reservoir	Sheridan
Shoot Reservoir	Valley
Spotted Eagle Pond	Custer
Talcott Pond	Carter
Tongue River Reservoir	Big Horn
Tripple Crossing Reservoir	Valley
Valley Reservoir	Valley
VR2 Reservoir	Valley
Wards Reservoir	Valley
Whiteside Reservoir	Garfield
Whitetail Reservoir	Daniels
Wibaux Pond	Wibaux

## **Rationale for changes proposed to Approved Seining Waters list**

### **Western Fishing District:**

**Burnt Lake, Flathead County (addition):** At present, there is interest in commercial collection and the forage base is abundant.

**Fish Lake, Lincoln County (addition):** At present, there is interest in commercial collection and the forage base is abundant.

**Herrig Creek (Little Bitterroot tributary)(addition):** Currently there is interest in commercial collection and previously there were collections of spawning suckers. This activity will only be allowed in the lowest stream reach and in the month following trout spawning.

### **Eastern Fishing District:**

**Flat Lake (deletion):** This water does not produce suitable numbers of bait fish to make commercial seining a sustainable activity. Additionally, Flat Lake water is periodically shared with Fort Peck Reservoir via culvert (at higher water levels) raising the potential of Eurasian Water Milfoil presence in Flat Lake.